

Host Homes Program of Milford

Milford Town Hall, 1 Union Square, Milford, NH 03055 - 4240 (603) 672 - 1069

~2004 REPORT~

The Host Home Program provides respite, intervention, and referrals to the adolescents of Milford. This is the eighth year we have been providing such services. Once again, we exceeded our projection figure by about forty percent. We provided service to 98 adolescents during the past year.

Respite care (placement) was provided to four adolescents for a total of 201 days in 2004. The adolescents continued in school, their jobs, friendships etc., uninterrupted. They and their families were referred to Milford Area Mediation and Hillsborough County Family Intervention. The Host Home Program provides 24 – hour a day response and support to the Host Home guests, families and referral agencies. Host Home families feel comfortable calling at any time, day, or night if the need occurs. The program addresses their concerns immediately.

More and more, we receive referrals from teens that do not wish to be placed but either they or their families realize they need help. We are able to assess their concerns and offer them help within the community. Our referrals include Bridges, the Teen Clinic, the Youth Council, Community Council, Alcoholics Anonymous, the Transitional Living Program, Milford Mediation, and Hillsborough County Family Intervention Services. The local churches continue to be supportive as well. Placement always remains an option and all parties seem comfortable knowing that.

When an adolescent leaves a Host Home, we continue to stay involved with them and their families. Host Homes has helped with summer plans including job placements and volunteer work. Recently Host Homes and Milford Mediation collaborated with Bridges, The Milford Schools, and the Pony Farm to offer area teens an opportunity to ride horses (groom, tack-up etc.) and be educated on healthy relationships. This was a huge success in the spring of 2004 and was offered again in fall of 2004. It is our intent to get it going again this spring. Horses have such a peaceful and therapeutic effect on us all.

The Host Home Program works in conjunction with many agencies. Once again, it is a privilege working with The Milford High School, The Milford Middle School, and the Milford Police Department. Our sincere appreciation also extends to the Kaley Foundation for their support of Host Homes.

We are grateful to the Town of Milford for their continued support of the Host Home Program. We also wish to thank The Wadleigh Public Library for the wonderful space they offer us. Clients feel comfortable under difficult circumstances in this warm and cheerful building.

During the year 2004, we welcomed two new host homes to the program. Both are exceptional in their kindness towards teens and the strengths they bring to the program.

Thank you so very much for what you have done for the youth of your community. We give our continued gratitude to our wonderful existing homes. You are very special people.

If you feel you would like to be part of The Host Home Program or know of a child in need of help, please call 672-1069 and we will be there to respond to your need.

Thank you again for allowing this unique program to be part of your community.

Respectfully Submitted

Mary Pat Jackson, Host Home Program Coordinator